

REMARKS

The present amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing as indicated. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended.

Specification

The paragraph relating to the angled connector has been deleted. Therefore, this objection is believed to be overcome.

§ 112

Claims 1 has been amended to delete the limitation discussing the angled connector and, as a result the language of “permanently” has also been deleted. Therefore, the objection to the term “permanently” is believed to be overcome as it has been deleted.

All of the rejections based on 35 USC § 112 are now believed to be overcome.

§102

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,908,423 to Kashuba et al. (“Kashuba”). Independent claim 1 has been amended to state that the reamer includes “a locking arrangement by which the angular relationship of the first and second components can be locked against movement from the second relationship towards the first relationship.” As described in the specification, the reamer can be locked in the second relationship.

There is no disclosure in Kashuba of such a locking mechanism. In fact, in Kashuba, the reamer is meant to be flexible and to continue to flex through the reaming process (see col. 2, ln. 53 – col. 3, ln. 9). Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over Kashuba.

Conclusion

For the above-described reasons it is respectfully submitted that the rejections to the claims have been overcome and that all remaining claims, namely claims 1-3 and 5-8 are currently in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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